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QUIN ABBEY.

Quin, called also Quint or Quinchy, is situated in the barony of Bunratty, about five miles east of Ennis. An abbey was founded here at an early period, which was consumed by fire, A. D. 1278.

In 1402, Mac Cam Dall Macnamara, lord of Glan-coilean, erected the present monastery, being a beautiful strong building of black marble; his tomb is still remaining. This monastery, with all the manors, advowsons, &c. of Daveunwall, Ichancee, Downagour, and divers others, with the site of all the hereditaments thereof, was granted to Sir Turlough O'Brien, of Innishdyman (Innistymon) in fee, December 14, 1583.

The monastery was repaired in 1604. Bishop Pococke thus describes its present state: "Quin is one of the finest and most entire monasteries that I have seen in Ireland; it is situated on a fine stream, with an ascent of several steps to the church: at the entrance one is surprised with the view of the high altar entire, and of an altar on each side of the arch of the chancel. To the south is a chapel, with three or four altars in it, and a very gothic figure in relief of some saint; on the north side of the chancel is a fine monument of the family of the Macnamaras of Rance, erected by the founder; on a stone by the high altar the name of Kennedye appears in large letters; in the middle, between the body and the chancel, is a fine tower built on the gable ends. The cloister is in the usual form, with couplets of pillars, but is particular in having buttresses round it by way of ornament; there are apartments on three sides of it, the refectory,

the dormitory, and another grand room to the north of the chancel, with a vaulted room under them all; to the north of the large room is a closet, which leads through a private way to a very strong round tower, the walls of which are near ten feet thick. In the front of the monastery is a building, which seems to have been an apartment for strangers, and to the south-west are two other buildings."

Dutton, in his Statistical Survey of the county of Clare, published in 1808, observes, that it remains nearly in the same state as when the bishop wrote, but greatly disfigured by the superstitious custom of burying within the walls of churches. The south end, built by one of the family of Macnamara, is much superior in neatness of workmanship to the adjoining parts. There are the remains of a curious representation of a crucifixion in stucco on the wall near the high altar, that have escaped, I believe, the observation of all travellers.

#### ACCOUNT OF HIGHLAND ROBBERS.

There is not an instance of any country having made so sudden a change in its morals, as the Hebrides. Security and civilization possesses every part; yet not many years have elapsed since the whole was a den of thieves, of the most extraordinary kind. They conducted their plundering excursions with the utmost policy, and reduced the whole art of theft into a regular system. From habit it lost all the appearance of criminality: they considered it as labouring in their vocation; and when a party was

formed for any expedition against their neighbours' prosperity, they and their friends prayed as earnestly to heaven for success, as if they were engaged in the most laudable design. The constant petition at grace of the old Highland chieftains, was delivered with great fervour in these terms: "Lord! turn the world upside down, that Christians may make bread out of it." The plain English of this pious request was, that the world might become, for their benefit, a scene of rapine and confusion. They paid a sacred regard to their oath; but as superstition, among a set of banditti, infallibly supersedes piety, each (like the distinct casts of Indians) had his particular object of veneration; one would swear upon his dirk, and dread the penalty of perjury, yet made no scruple to forswear himself upon the bible: a second would pay the same respect to the name of his chieftain: a third again would be most religiously bound by the sacred book: and a fourth regard none of the three, and be credited only if he swore by his crucifix. It was also necessary to discover the inclination of the person, before you put him to the test; if the object of his veneration was mistaken, the oath was of no signification. The greatest robbers were used to preserve hospitality to those that came to their houses; and, like the wild Arabs, observed the strictest honour towards their guests, or those who put implicit confidence in them. The Kennedies, two common thieves, took the young Pretender under protection, and kept him with faith inviolate, notwithstanding they knew an immense reward was offered for his head. They often robbed for his support; and to supply him with linen, they once surprised the baggage horses of one of our general officers. They often went in disguise to Inverness, to buy provisions for him. At length, a very considerable time after, one of these poor fellows, who had virtue to resist the temptation of thirty thousand pounds, was hanged for stealing a cow, value thirty shillings. The greatest crime among these fellows, was that of infidelity among themselves: the criminal underwent a summary trial, and, if convicted, never missed of a capital punishment. The chieftain had his officers, and different departments of governments: he had his judge, to whom he entrusted the decision of all civil disputes; but in criminal cases, the chief, assisted perhaps by some favourites, always undertook the process. The principal men of his family, or his officers, formed his council, where every thing was debated respecting their expeditions. Eloquence was held in great esteem among them, for by that they could sometimes so work on their chieftain as to change his opinion; for notwithstanding he always kept the form of a council, he always reserved the decisive vote in himself. When one man had a claim upon another, but wanted power to make it good, it was held lawful for him to steal from his debtor as many cattle as would satisfy his demand, provided he sent notice (as soon as he got out of the reach of pursuit, that he had them, and would return them, provided satisfaction was made on a certain day agreed on.

When a creach, or great expedition had been made against distant herds, the owners, as soon as discovery was made, rose in arms; and with all their friends made instant pursuit, tracing the cattle by their track, for, perhaps, scores of miles. Their nicety in distinguishing that of their cattle from those that were only casually wandering, or driven, was amazingly sagacious. As soon as they arrived on an estate where the track was lost, they immediately attacked the proprietor, and would oblige him to recover the track from his land forwards, or make good the loss they had sustained. This custom had the force of law, which gave to the Highlanders this surprising skill in the art of tracking. It has been observed before, that to steal, rob, and plunder with dexterity, was esteemed as the highest act of heroism. The feuds between the great families was one great cause. There was not a chieftain but kept in some remote valley in the depth of woods and rocks, whole tribes of thieves in readiness to let loose against his neighbours, when (from some public or private reason) he did not judge it expedient to resent openly any real or imaginary affront.—From this motive, the greatest chieftain robbers always supported the lesser, and encouraged no sort of improve-

ment on their estates but what promoted rapine. The greatest of the heroes in the sixteenth century, was Sir Ewen Cameron: he long resisted the power of Cromwell, but at length was forced to submit. He lived in the neighbourhood of the garrison, fixed by the usurper at Inverlochy. His vassals persisted in their thefts, till Cromwell sent orders to the commanding officer, that on the next robbery he should seize on the chieftain, and execute him in twenty-four hours, in case the thief was not delivered to justice. An act of rapine soon happened: Sir Ewen received the message; but, instead of giving himself the trouble of looking out for the offender, he laid hold of the first fellow he met with, and sent him bound to Inverlochy, where he was instantly hanged.—Cromwell, by this severity, put a stop to these excesses till the time of the restoration, when they were renewed with double violence till the year 1745. Rob Roy Macgregor was another distinguished hero in the latter end of the 16th, and the beginning of the 17th century.—He contributed greatly towards forming his profession into a science, and established the police above mentioned. The Duke of Montrose unfortunately was his neighbour. Rob Roy had frequently saved his Grace the trouble of collecting his rents; he used to extort them from the tenants, and at the same time give them formal discharges. But it was neither in the power of the Duke, or any of the gentlemen he plundered, to bring him to justice; so strongly protected was he by several great men to whom he was useful. Roy had his good qualities: he spent his revenge generously; and, strange to say, was a true friend to the widow and orphan. Every period of time gives new improvement to the arts. A son of Sir Ewen Cameron refined on those of Rob Roy; and, instead of dissipating his gains, accumulated wealth. He, like Jonathan Wild, the Great, never stole with his own hands, but conducted his commerce with an address and to an extent unknown before. He employed several companies; and set the more adroit knaves at their head; and never suffered merit to go unrewarded. He never openly received their plunder, but employed agents to purchase from them their cattle. He acquired considerable property, which he was forced to leave behind, after the battle of Culloden gave the fatal blow to all their greatness. The last of any eminence was the celebrated Barrisdale, who carried these arts to the highest pitch of perfection. Besides exalting all the common practices, he improved that article of commerce called the 'Black Meal,' to a degree beyond what was ever known to his predecessors. This was a forced levy, so called from its being commonly paid in meal, which was raised, far and wide, on the estate of every nobleman and gentleman, in order that their cattle might be secured from the lesser thieves, over whom he secretly presided and protected. He raised an income of five hundred a year by these taxes; and behaved with genuine honour in restoring, on proper consideration, the stolen cattle of his friends. In this he bore some resemblance to our Jonathan; but he differed in observing a strict fidelity towards his own gang; yet he was indefatigable in bringing to justice any rogues that interfered with his own. He was a man of polished behaviour, fine address, and a fine person—and considered himself in a very high light, as a benefactor to the public and preserver of general tranquillity.

#### THE COCKNEY.

The cockney lives in a go-cart of local prejudices and positive allusions; and when he is turned out of it, he hardly knows how to stand or move. He ventures through Hyde Park Corner as a cat crosses a gutter. The trees pass by the coach very oddly. The country has a strange blank appearance. It is not lined with houses all the way like London. He comes to places he never saw or heard of. He finds the world bigger than he thought it. He might have dropped from the moon, for any thing he knows of the matter. He is mightily disposed to laugh, but is half afraid of making some blunder. Between sheepishness and conceit, he is in a very ludicrous situation.—He finds that the people walk on two legs, and wonders to hear them talk a dialect so different from his own. He